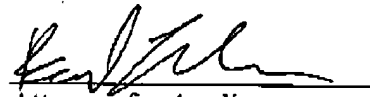


Applicants point out that the claims 13 and 14 define, in relative terms, hydrophilic characteristics of the clear layer and the information layer. In the combination as claimed, the clear layer is relatively more hydrophilic than the information receiving layer. The specification supports the claims by showing that the information receiving layer is disposed between a support and a barrier layer.

The claims are not directed to the individual hydrophilic properties of the clear and information receiving layers, but instead to the relative differences between the layers in the combination. The invention alters the relative hydrophilic characteristics of the layers by placing a support on one side of the information receiving layer and a barrier layer on the other side. Because the information receiving layer is covered on both its surfaces by the barrier layer and the support, it is less able to absorb water than the clear layer that has one surface open to receive water based colorants. As such, the claims are supported by the specification.

Because there are no other objections or rejections, Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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